

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL the claims as follows:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A payback system in which a customer receives a product directly or via a middleman from a product provider or a product and service provider, and receives a service from a service provider or the product and service provider by using the product, characterized by:

recording means for recording a use of services received from the product by the customer;

storage means for storing use results of the recorded service received by the customer by using the product; and

determination means for determining, based on the stored recorded use results, a payback value or payback values of the product to both the customer and the middleman.

5. (Original) The payback system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that:
the product is an information-processing product; and
the service is provided by means of the information-processing product.

6-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A payback system for making payback to both a product user and a middleman when a service is received by using a product distributed by a product manufacturer or the middleman, characterized by:

a storage device storing use result information of the services received by the product user by using the product; and

a calculation device calculating a payback value or payback values to both the product user and the middleman based on the stored use result information stored in said storage device.

11. (Original) The payback system as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that:
the product is an information-processing product; and
the service is provided by means of the information-processing product.

12. (Previously Presented) A payback system in which a customer receives a product directly or via a middleman from a product provider or a product and service provider, and receives a service from a service provider or the product and service provider by using the product, characterized by:

a storage device storing use result information of the services received by the customer by using the product; and

a determination device determining a payback value or payback values of the product to both the customer and the middleman based on the stored use result information stored in said storage device.

13. (Original) The payback system as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that:
the product is an information-processing product; and
the service is provided by means of the information-processing product.

14-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A payback system for making payback to a customer and a middleman when a service is received by using a product distributed by a product distributor such as a manufacturer or the middleman, comprising:

distribution channel storage means for storing information correlating the distributed product by the product distributor to the customer;

product usage storage means for storing information about the customer's use of the product; and

calculation means for calculating a payback value or payback values to the customer and the middleman based on the stored information about the customer's use of the product.